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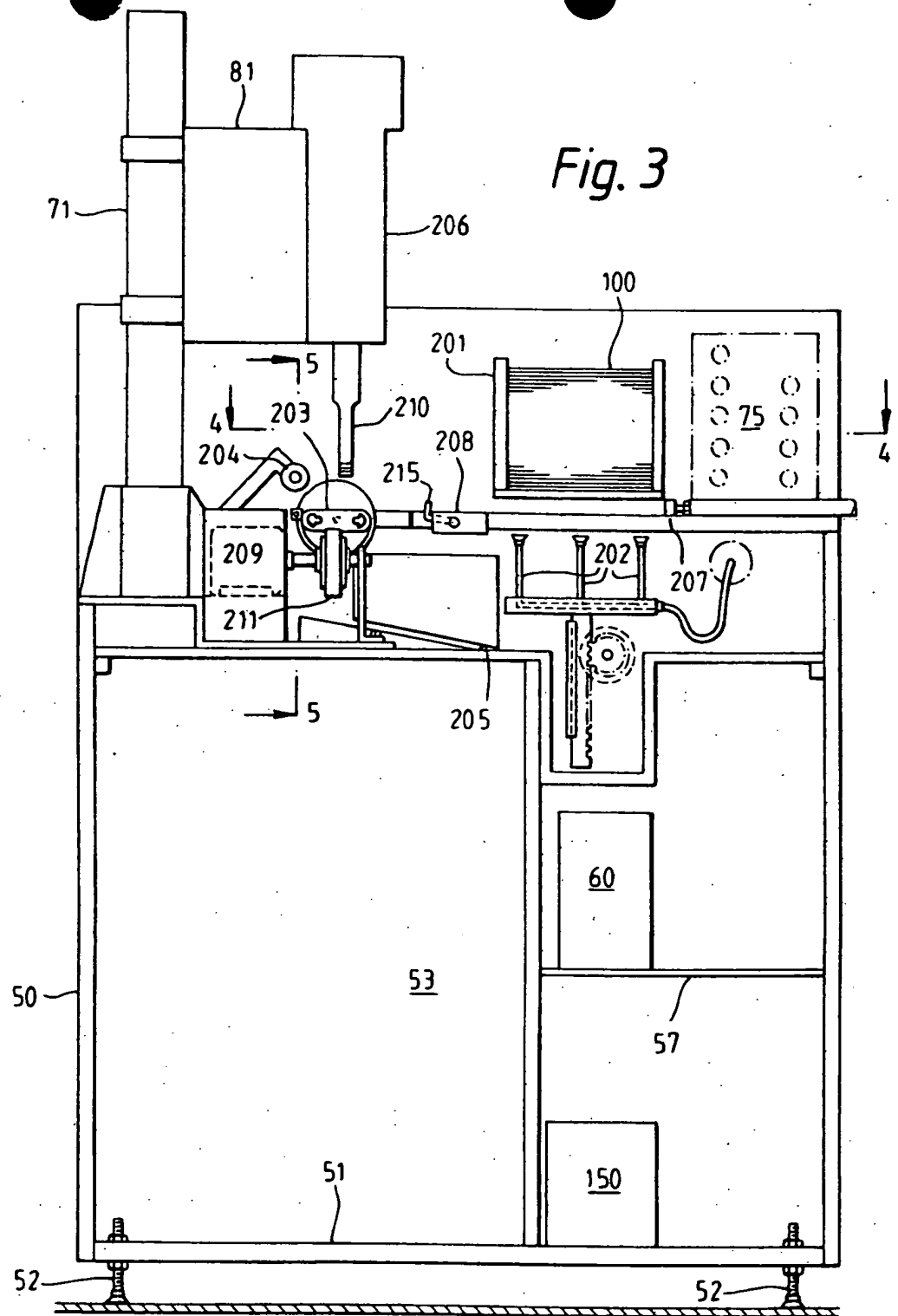
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⑤④ Apparatus and method for forming hinged top cigarette box.

- ⑤⑦ An apparatus for forming a hinged top cigarette box having a cross-section with one or more arcuate surfaces from a one piece blank 100 is disclosed. The apparatus comprises :
- a) a frame 50 ;
 - b) a hopper 201 connected to the frame for holding a supply of one piece blanks ;
 - c) a mandrel 203 rotatably mounted on the frame for wrapping the one piece blank upon itself ;
 - d) a transfer means 207,208 adjacent the hopper for transferring a one piece blank from the hopper to the mandrel ; and
 - e) an ultrasonic sealing device 206 movably mounted on the frame and having an acoustical horn 210 for engagement with the mandrel for sealing the one piece blank after it has been wrapped upon itself.

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Fig. 3



Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to an apparatus for forming a hinged top cigarette box. More particularly, this invention relates to an apparatus for forming a hinged top cigarette box having a cross-section with one or more arcuate surfaces from a one piece blank.

One means of packaging cigarettes is to use a hard, paperboard box. Typically, the box contains a foil wrapped cigarette bundle and has a hinged lid at the top. In addition, the typical hinged top box has hard corners which are necessary for the box to hold its shape.

Many smokers prefer a hinged top cigarette box because such a box can be reclosed to prevent loose tobacco from dropping out and offers better protection for the cigarettes within it. Typical hinged top, cigarette box designs only allow for an angular shaped profile and generally have imperfect miter alignment between the top and the body. As a result, a novel hinged top cigarette box having a rounded profile has been designed. See U.S. Patent 4,923,059. Such a hinged top cigarette box is formed from a one piece blank. However, standard hinged top cigarette box apparatuses are inadequate for forming a hinged top cigarette box having a circular, oval, elliptical or other cross-sectional shape having one or more arcuate surfaces from a one-piece blank as shown in U.S. Patent 4,923,059.

It would therefore be desirable to provide an apparatus for forming hinged top cigarette boxes having a cross-section with one or more arcuate surfaces.

It would also be desirable to provide an apparatus for forming hinged top cigarette boxes from a one piece blank.

Summary of the Invention

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide an apparatus for forming hinged top cigarette boxes having a cross-section with one or more arcuate surfaces.

It is also an object of this invention to provide an apparatus for forming hinged top cigarette boxes from a one piece blank.

In accordance with the invention, there is provided an apparatus for forming hinged top cigarette boxes having a cross-section with one or more arcuate surfaces from a one piece blank. The one piece blanks, which may be laminated paperboard or plain stock are supplied to a mandrel. One end of the blank is affixed to the mandrel. When the mandrel is rotated appropriately the blank is formed into a shell having an oval, elliptical or flat oval (similar to a racetrack configuration) cross-sectional shape. The seams of the shell are sealed by means of a dry pre-applied adhesive, which is activated by heat such as provided by an ultrasonic sealing device, or by means of a fast

drying wet adhesive to permanently hold the shape of the formed shell. The formed shell is then ejected from the mandrel.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

The above and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a formed hinged top cigarette box made by the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of a one piece blank for forming a hinged top cigarette box made by the apparatus of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a front elevation view of one embodiment of the apparatus of this invention;

FIG. 4 is a plan view taken along line 4-4 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a side elevation view taken along line 5-5 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the wrapping and sealing station of the apparatus of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 is a partial front elevation view of a second embodiment of the apparatus of this invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Preferably the blank 100 used to form the shell of the hinged top cigarette box 10 is constructed of 12-point paperboard. The paperboard may be laminated or plain stock. As seen in FIG. 1, box 10 comprises an outer sleeve 11, an inner sleeve 12 having a cut-out 20 to facilitate the removal of cigarettes from box 10 and a cover member 13. Box 10 is preferably formed from blank 100 shown in FIG. 2. A detailed description of the hinged top cigarette box formed from a one piece blank by the apparatus of this invention can be found in U.S. patent 4,923,059.

As shown in FIGS. 3 through 6, one embodiment of the apparatus for forming and sealing blank 100 comprises a hopper 201 for storing a plurality of blanks 100, vacuum rods and suction cups 202 for removing the bottom most blank 100 from hopper 201, a pusher bar 207 and a slide 208 for transferring blank 100 from hopper 201 to a mandrel 203, a pinch roller 204, a support means 205, an ultrasonic sealing device 206, a U-shaped fork 209 and an eject roller 211 for removing the formed shell from mandrel 203.

In addition, the forming and sealing area of the apparatus of this invention is mounted on a rigid frame 50 having a horizontal base member 51 supported on a plurality of adjustable legs 52 and a vertical back wall 53 fixedly secured to base member 51. Frame 50 includes shelf 57 for carrying the control means 60

(obtained from the ultrasonic sealing device manufacturer) associated with the ultrasonic sealing device 206.

Ultrasonic sealing device 206 is adjustably counted on vertical support arm 71. Support arm 81 of ultrasonic sealing device 206 is mounted to the housing of ultrasonic sealing device 206 provided, therewith by the manufacturer. The housing contains electrical apparatus, a converter for converting electrical energy to mechanical energy, i.e. vibration and an acoustical horn 210 (similar in concept to a tuning fork) for transmitting the mechanical energy to the formed shell.

Controller 150, such as a Siemens PLC LOGIC Programmable Controller, is disposed beneath controller means 60 on horizontal base member 51. A control panel 75 which includes push-buttons to activate the apparatus, a reset button, and a safety cut-off switch is used to control the operation of the apparatus of this invention.

Alternatively, when a wet adhesive is used to seal the formed shell, a glue pot 500, a glue roller 510 and a glue dabber 520 are provided and ultrasonic sealing device 206 is not provided. See FIG. 7. In such an embodiment, controller means 60 associated with ultrasonic sealing device 206 would be unnecessary. However, controller 150 and control panel 75 would still be necessary to control the operation of the apparatus of this invention.

Although this invention will be described in terms of forming and sealing a hinged top cigarette box having a cross-section with one or more arcuate surfaces, it is to be understood that this invention can also be used to form a hinged top cigarette box having a rectangular or other multi-sided cross-sectional shape. The shape of the resulting box being determined by the shape of mandrel 203

Hopper 201 carries a load of blanks 100 to be formed into hinged top cigarette boxes. Blank 100 is transferred from hopper 201 to slide 208 by a vacuum exerted through vacuum rods and suction cups 202 on the bottom most blank 100 in hopper 201. The vacuum can be exerted by means of a standard vacuum pump, such as a Gast #DAA-VIII-GB and a Numatics solenoid model M7 11DSA5 46.

Vacuum rods and suction cups 202 can be raised and lowered by means of a first servo motor, such as an Emerson DXM 430S, and rack and pinion combination. The first servo motor is synchronized to rotate the pinion once in one direction and then to rotate the pinion once in the opposite direction. The engagement of the pinion with a rack fixedly connected to the vacuum rods and suction cups 202 causes vacuum rods and suction cups 202 to be raised and lowered when the pinion is rotated.

Initially vacuum rods and suction cups 202 are raised into contact with bottom most blank 100. This allows the combination of the vacuum exerted through

the vacuum rods and suction cups 202 to grip bottom most blank 100. The lowering of vacuum rods and suction cups 202 away from hopper 201 toward slide 208 thus brings bottom most blank 100 from hopper 201 to slide 208. A sensing device, such as a Baluff #BES-516-122-DO-Y5 proximity switch, determines when vacuum rods and suction cups 202 have been lowered to properly place blank 100 on slide 208. At that point, a solenoid valve is activated to momentarily stop the vacuum from passing through vacuum rods and suction cups 202.

Next, pusher bar 207 advances along slide 208 to push blank 100 along slide 208 toward mandrel 203. A second servo motor, such as an Emerson DXM 430S, is used to rotate another pinion which in turn advances another rack. This rack is connected to pusher bar 207 and causes pusher bar 207 to move along slide 208. The second servo motor is synchronized so that it rotates the pinion once in one direction to cause pusher bar 207 to advance toward mandrel 203. The second servo motor then rotates the pinion once in the opposite direction to cause pusher bar 207 to return to its original position.

Blank 100 is fed toward mandrel 203 by pusher bar 207 so that edge 103 is the leading edge and is perpendicular to the direction of travel. The surface of blank 100 that will be exposed to the smoker once blank 100 is formed into a box should be facing up and away from slide 208 toward hopper 201. Edge 103 of blank 100 should be aligned on mandrel 203 so that edge 103 is parallel to the longitudinal axis of mandrel 203. If edge 103 is not parallel to the longitudinal axis of mandrel 203, the resulting shell will have an undesirable conical cross-section.

In order to ensure that blank 100 is properly aligned on mandrel 203, side guides (not shown) on slide 208 can be used. Alternatively, slide 208 can be properly dimensioned so that as blank 100 is pushed toward mandrel 203, edge 103 remains parallel to the longitudinal axis of mandrel 203. In addition, stops 215 are located on either side of slide 208 to engage the shoulders 118 and 119 of blank 100. Stops 215 are located at a position along slide 208 so that when shoulders 118 and 119 engage stops 215, edge 103 will be properly aligned on the left side of mandrel 203 as seen in FIGS. 3, 4 and 6. The second servo motor and rack and pinion combination are synchronized such that when shoulders 118 and 119 engage stops 215, the pinion is caused to reverse its rotation so that pusher bar 207 retracts to its original position.

To ensure that blank 100 remains properly aligned on mandrel 203 during the folding operation, one side of mandrel 203 has a plurality of vacuum holes and saw teeth located thereon. A vacuum is created inside mandrel 203 by means of a standard vacuum pump, such as a Gast #DAA-VIII-GB and a Numatics solenoid model M7 11DSA5 45. The solenoid is activated once shoulders 118 and 119 engage stops 215.

The force created by the vacuum pump holds blank 100 in place along one side of mandrel 203. When the vacuum is activated through the solenoid, pinch roller 204 is rotated into contact with blank 100 along edge 103 on mandrel 203. The pressure exerted by pinch roller 204 causes the saw teeth to bite into blank 100.

Prior to the rotation of mandrel 203, stops 215 must be rotated below the floor of slide 208. This can be accomplished by having stops 215 rotatably connected to a follower which engages an extension bar on the rack used to advance pusher bar 207. As the rack and the extension bar move toward mandrel 203, the follower engages the extension bar causing stops 215 to rotate above the floor of slide 208. When the rack and pusher bar 207 return to the original position the follower disengages from the extension bar causing stops 215 to rotate below the floor of slide 208.

Mandrel 203 rotates two complete revolutions counterclockwise as seen from FIGS. 3, 4 and 6 to form blank 100 into a shell having the shape shown in FIG. 1. Preferably, a third servo motor, such as an Emerson DXM-430S that has been programmed to rotate one complete revolution and a two to one gear ratio is used. Of course, the number of revolutions that mandrel 203 rotates may change if different configurations for a hinged top cigarette box are desired or if different size blanks are used. As mandrel 203 rotates, pinch roller 204 remains in contact with blank 100 on mandrel 203. This ensures that blank 100 is properly wrapped around itself.

Blank 100 is wrapped by mandrel 203 and pinch roller 204 in one continuous motion so that edge 103 abuts with line 112 and edge 104 abuts with line 113. Preferably, score lines 107 and 108 overlap after blank 100 is properly wrapped.

To ensure the formation of a flat oval shaped hinged top cigarette box having proper dimensions, mandrel 203 should be slightly narrower and wider than the shape desired for the finished shell. However, the circumference of mandrel 203 should be about the same as the circumference of the finished shell. Thus, for a flat oval shaped hinged top cigarette box 10.211cm (4.020 inches) long, 4.336cm (1.707 inches) wide and having curved sides with a 8.10mm (0.322 inch) radius of curvature, mandrel 203 should be longer than 10cm (4 inches), about 1.113cm (0.48 inches) thick, about 4.359mm (1.716 inches) wide and have curved sides with a radius of curvature of about 5.56mm (0.219 inches).

This configuration is necessary because blank 100 used to form the hinged top cigarette box has a memory and will try to assume a round configuration after it has been wrapped. Thus by using a mandrel that is narrower and wider than the shape desired for the finished shell, blank 100 will assume the desired shape for the finished shell after it has been ejected from mandrel 203. For blanks of different materials, the dimensions of mandrel 203 will change in corres-

pondence with the memory of the blank material.

Once wrapped, blank 100 is then sealed so the resulting hinged top cigarette box will hold its shape. One means of sealing blank 100 is by using a dry adhesive in combination with a means for producing heat to activate the dry adhesive, such as ultrasonic sealing device 206. Preferably ultrasonic sealing device 206 is a 900 SERIES manufactured and marketed by Branson Ultrasonics Corporation. The vibration from acoustical horn 210 manifests itself as heat induced by friction and pressure between the pieces to be joined thus activating the pre-applied dry adhesive.

Control means 60 is used to ensure that a proper seal is provided by ultrasonic sealing device 206. Control means 60 monitors how much time and energy has been expended by ultrasonic sealing device 206 to seal the shell. These values are compared to the desired values stored in the memory of control means 60. In this manner, control means 60 can alert the operator of an improper seal or other abnormal condition.

Preferably a dry adhesive such as one manufactured by Pierre Stevens and known as Latisel A7734A is used. This adhesive is activated at a temperature of less than about 93°C (200°F). A thin, uniform amount of this dry adhesive is preferably applied to blank 100 prior to blank 100 being loaded into hopper 201. Preferably the dry adhesive should be applied on blank 100 in the area bounded by edge 104 and line 114 and the area bounded by lines 112 and 113 on the inside surface of blank 100, i.e., the side opposite to that which will be exposed to the smoker when a hinged top cigarette box is formed from blank 100.

Ultrasonic sealing device 206 uses a specially shaped acoustical horn 210 to contact only the area of the surface to be sealed. Preferably the portion of acoustical horn 210 that contacts the forced shell on mandrel 203 is rectangular and is about 10cm (4 inches) long and about 1.3cm (0.5 inches) wide. By applying the dry adhesive to blank 100 in the locations described above, the two areas on which the dry adhesive is applied will be aligned once blank 100 is properly wrapped on mandrel 203. Thus, when acoustical horn 210 of ultrasonic sealing device 206 comes in contact with the formed shell on mandrel 203 to seal the formed shell, acoustical horn 210 activates the dry adhesive in both locations.

During the sealing process ultrasonic sealing device 210 applies about 50 to about 70 pounds of pressure to the formed shell and mandrel 203. In order to withstand this pressure, support device 205 is moved into position under mandrel 203 by the first servo motor and a rack and pinion combination. Support device 205 is used to support mandrel 203 during the sealing operation after mandrel 203 has completed its two revolutions.

Support device 205 can take on any configuration

as long as it provides the necessary support to mandrel 203 when ultrasonic sealing device 206 is applying pressure. Preferably support device 205 comprises two top rails which contact the bottom of mandrel 203 at positions where blank 100 is not wrapped around mandrel 203. This will avoid the creation of indentations in the shell caused by the pressure exerted by ultrasonic sealing device 206.

In addition, ultrasonic sealing device 206 should be angled right of vertical, as seen from FIG. 3, about one degree. This angle of engagement between mandrel 203 and acoustical horn 210 of ultrasonic sealing device 206 avoids the creation of any noticeable indentations and marks on the formed shell by the pressure exerted by ultrasonic sealing device 206.

Conventional load cells, which are supplied by the ultrasonic sealing device manufacturer, measure the load exerted by acoustical horn 210 on the formed shell until a preselected load is obtained. At that point, the converter of ultrasonic sealing device 206 is activated. When the converter is activated, control means 60 monitors the duration and magnitude of energy input to the formed shell to assure that the energy and time parameters are within predefined acceptable ranges.

To properly seal blank 100 once it is properly wrapped, ultrasonic sealing device 206, operating at a frequency of 20 kHz, should contact the formed shell for about 0.15 seconds. This is enough to deposit a total energy of about 30 to about 40 Joules and obtain sufficient melting of the dry adhesive. The molten adhesive almost instantaneously cools to provide a durable bond.

Once the predetermined energy deposition and duration have been achieved, acoustical horn 210 is retracted, support device 205 is retracted, pinch roller 204 is retracted and the formed shell is ejected from mandrel 203. A proximity switch, such as a Baluff #BES 516-122-DO-Y5, senses when acoustical horn 210 is retracted to signal when ejection of the formed shell should take place. If an abnormal condition has occurred or the parameters have exceeded the acceptable ranges, controller 150 can sound an alarm and cancel the signal which ejects the shell from mandrel 203.

It is to be understood that the parameters used for ultrasonically sealing other combinations of materials and adhesives will require different time and total energy deposition ranges. However, such parameters can be easily ascertained by conducting parametric evaluations of sample runs as is well known to those in the packaging field.

The formed shell is ejected from mandrel 203 by means of U-shaped fork 209 fixedly engaged with the rear end of side pieces 220 which comprise a part of mandrel 203. side pieces 220 are slidably connected at either side of a central core and together comprise mandrel 203. An air cylinder and U-shaped fork 209

are used to push side pieces 220 along the length of mandrel 203. Since the formed shell is frictionally engaged with side pieces 220 after being wrapped around mandrel 203, the movement of side pieces 220 causes the shell to travel with side pieces 220 toward the end of mandrel 203. Eject roller 211, rotating in the direction of the movement of the shell, engages the formed shell to pull the formed shell from mandrel 203.

The retraction of the air cylinder causes U-shaped fork 209 to pull side pieces 220 back to their original position. The formed shell is not pulled back with side pieces 220 because it has already been pulled off by eject roller 211.

alternatively, a metal plate (not shown) may be positioned adjacent to where the shell will be positioned after being moved by side pieces 220. This metal plate can be arranged so that it engages with the shell causing the shell to bow and widen thus minimizing the frictional engagement between side pieces 220 and the formed shell.

To facilitate the ejection of the formed shell from mandrel 203, the center core of mandrel 203 is tapered. Thus when side pieces 220 are pushed along the length of mandrel 203, the distance between side pieces 220 decreases minimizing the frictional engagement between side pieces 220 and the formed shell at the point where eject roller 211 engages the formed shell.

After the formed shell is ejected, another blank 100 is slid into position and the process is repeated. Controller 150 is used to synchronize the ejection of a formed shell from mandrel 203 with the advancement of another blank 100 toward mandrel 203 by pusher bar 207. In this way, the process is repeated.

Approximately 30 shells per minute can be made using this embodiment. To increase the output, additional mandrels and ultrasonic sealing devices can be used.

In an alternative embodiment, blank 100 slides by gravity along slide 208a into alignment with mandrel 203a. In this embodiment, a wet adhesive is used to seal blank 100 into the formed shell. See FIG. 7.

Vacuum extracting arm and suction cups 202a rotate into contact with bottom most blank 100 and pull blank 100 onto slide 208a. The rotation of vacuum extracting arm and suction cups 202a is achieved by means of a cam and follower arrangement. A sensing device, such as a Baluff #BES 516-122-DO-Y5 proximity switch, senses the cam used to rotate vacuum extracting arm and suction cups 202a. The cam and the sensing device are synchronized so that the sensing device senses the cam when laminate blank 100 has been placed on slide 208a. At that point, the sensing device signals a solenoid valve which is activated to momentarily prevent the vacuum from being exerted through vacuum extracting arm and section cups 202a. At this point, blank 100 slides along slide 208a

until shoulders 118 and 119 engage stops 216.

Stops 216 are located on either side of slide 208a. When stops 216 are rotated below the floor of slide 208a, blank 100 slides along slide 208a until shoulders 118 and 119 engage stops 215a. An air cylinder operates both sets of stops 216 and 215a such that when the air cylinder is extended, one of the sets of stops rotates up above the floor of slide 208a and the other set of stops rotates below the floor of slide 208a. When the air cylinder is retracted, the two sets of stops rotate in the opposite direction. This arrangement allows one blank to be ready to proceed to mandrel 203a while one blank is being wrapped around mandrel 203a. A proximity switch, such as a Baluff #BES 516-122-DO-Y5, is used to sense when the air cylinder is extended or retracted.

When stops 216 are rotated below the floor of slide 208a, blank 100 slides along slide 208a until shoulders 118 and 119 have engaged stops 215a. At this point, edge 103 of blank 100 is aligned on mandrel 203a so that edge 103 is parallel to the longitudinal axis of mandrel 203a. When stops 215a are rotated below the floor of slide 208a, the proximity switch senses the position of the air cylinder and signals pinch roller 204a to rotate into contact with blank 100 along edge 103 on mandrel 203a. Mandrel 203a then rotates as described in connection with the first embodiment to form the shell.

The wet adhesive used to seal blank 100 is preferably # 3910 ML manufactured by H. B. Fuller and is held in glue pot 500. Knurled, glue roller 510 submerged in the wet adhesive in glue pot 500 rotates and picks up the wet adhesive. A scrapper removes the excess wet adhesive from glue roller 510. Glue roller 510 transfers the wet adhesive to glue dabber 520. Preferably the glue roller 510 and glue dabber 520 rotate at different circumferential speeds. This results in a smearing action between glue roller 510 and glue dabber 520 to facilitate the transfer of glue from glue roller 510 to glue dabber 520.

Glue dabber 520 rotates once for every two revolutions made by mandrel 203a. However, glue dabber 520 has an outside diameter about twice that of mandrel 203a. Thus glue dabber 520 has the same circumferential speed as mandrel 203a and is synchronized with mandrel 203a so a line of the wet adhesive is applied to the portion of blank 100 on the flat part of mandrel 203a.

The wet adhesive is preferably applied to the outside surface of blank 100, i.e., the surface facing away from slide 208, in the areas bounded by edge 103 and line 111, lines 630 and 620 and lines 112 and 113. To avoid having wet adhesive applied to that part of blank 100 that will be exposed to the smoker, only three arms are used on glue dabber 520 to apply the wet adhesive. The arms of glue dabber 520 preferably have radiused ends and are about 3mm (1/8 inch) thick. This results in a smooth transfer of wet adhesive

between glue dabber 520 and blank 100.

To ensure that the relative positions of glue dabber 520 and the outside surface of blank 100 remain the same, glue dabber 520 must move away from mandrel 203a a distance equal to the thickness of blank 100 once blank 100 has overwrapped itself on mandrel 203a. This is accomplished by using an air cylinder to rotate a cam engaged with the shaft of glue dabber 520. By extending the air cylinder and rotating the cam, the shaft of glue dabber 520 can be moved away from mandrel 203a a distance equal to the thickness of blank 100. A proximity switch, such as a Baluff #BES-516-122-DO-Y5, adjacent to a cam associated with the shaft of mandrel 203a signals the air cylinder used to move the shaft of the glue dabber once mandrel 203a has made one complete revolution.

Since a wet adhesive takes some time before it will set it is important that blank 100 remain on mandrel 203a with pinch roller 204a holding blank 100 in the shape of the shell until the wet adhesive sets. This usually takes between about 5 and about 7 seconds. Once the wet adhesive sets, the formed shell is ejected from mandrel 203a. (See discussion above.)

End caps may be subsequently added to the shell after ejection so that the resulting hinged top cigarette box 10 will provide a complete enclosure for the contents. See U.S. Patent 4,923,059.

Thus, it can be seen that an apparatus for forming hinged top cigarette boxes having an arcuate cross-section with one or more arcuate surfaces from a one piece blank is provided. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention can be practiced by other than the described embodiments, which are presented for purposes of illustration and not of limitation, and the present invention is limited only by the claims which follow.

Claims

1. Apparatus for forming a hinged top cigarette box from a one piece blank (100) comprising:
 - a) a frame (50);
 - b) a hopper (201) connected to the frame for holding a supply of one piece blanks;
 - c) a mandrel (203) (203a) rotatably mounted on the frame for wrapping the one piece blank upon itself;
 - d) a transfer means (207,208) (208a) adjacent the hopper for transferring a one piece blank from the hopper to the mandrel; and
 - e) a sealing device (206) (500,510,520) for sealing the one piece blank with adhesive after it has been wrapped upon itself.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, in which the sealing device is an ultrasonic sealing device (206) movably mounted on the frame and having an

acoustical horn (210) for engagement with the mandrel (203) for heating adhesive on the one piece blank to seal the blank after it has been wrapped upon itself.

3. Apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising a support (205) for the mandrel (203) when the acoustical horn (210) is in engagement with the mandrel. 5
4. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which the sealing device is a glue applicator (500,510,520) for applying glue to the one piece blank. 10
5. Apparatus according to claim 4, in which the glue applicator is a glue dabber (520) in rotatable communication with the mandrel (203a) and in communication with the glue pot (500). 15
6. Apparatus according to any preceding claim further comprising an ejector (211) ejecting the one piece blank (100) from the mandrel (203) (203a) after the one piece blank is wrapped upon itself and sealed. 20
7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim further comprising a means (204) (204a) for holding the one piece blank (100) on the mandrel (203) (203a) as the mandrel rotates the one piece blank upon itself. 25 30
8. A method for forming a hinged top cigarette box from a one piece blank comprising:
 - a) supplying a blank to a mandrel;
 - b) holding the blank on the mandrel;
 - c) rotating the mandrel to wrap the blank around the mandrel to form a shell;
 - d) sealing the seams of the shell; and
 - e) ejecting the shell from the mandrel. 35 40
9. A method according to claim 8, in which the sealing is by dry adhesive preapplied to the blank, and heat.
10. A method according to claim 9, in which the heat is applied ultrasonically. 45
11. A method according to claim 8, in which the sealing is by wet adhesive. 50

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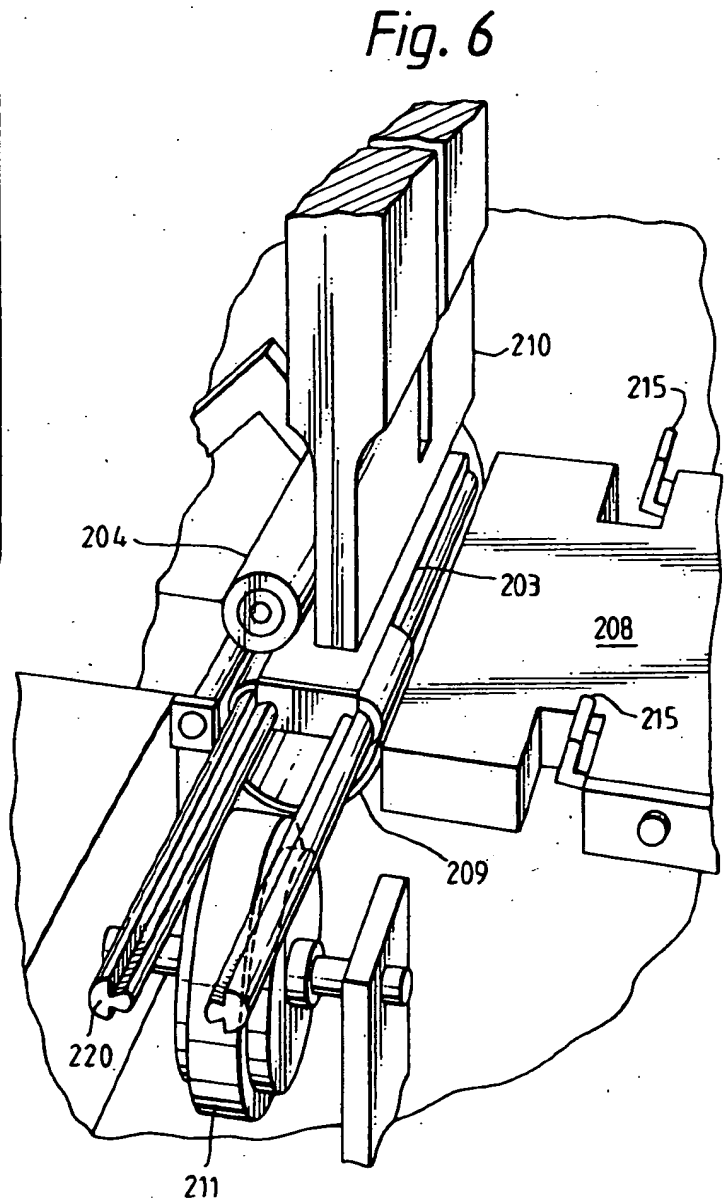
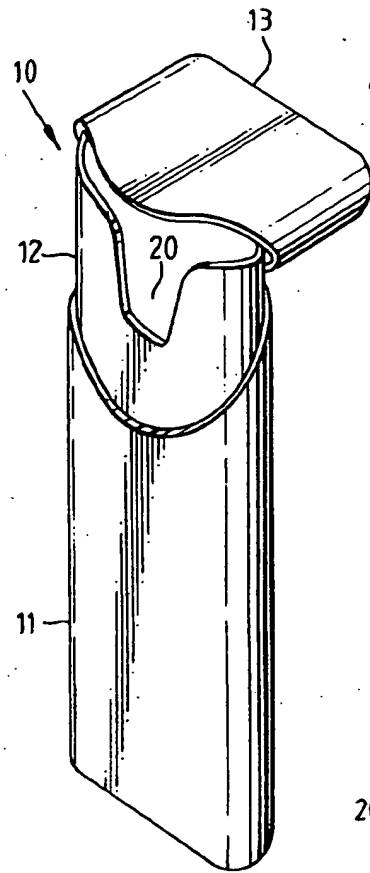
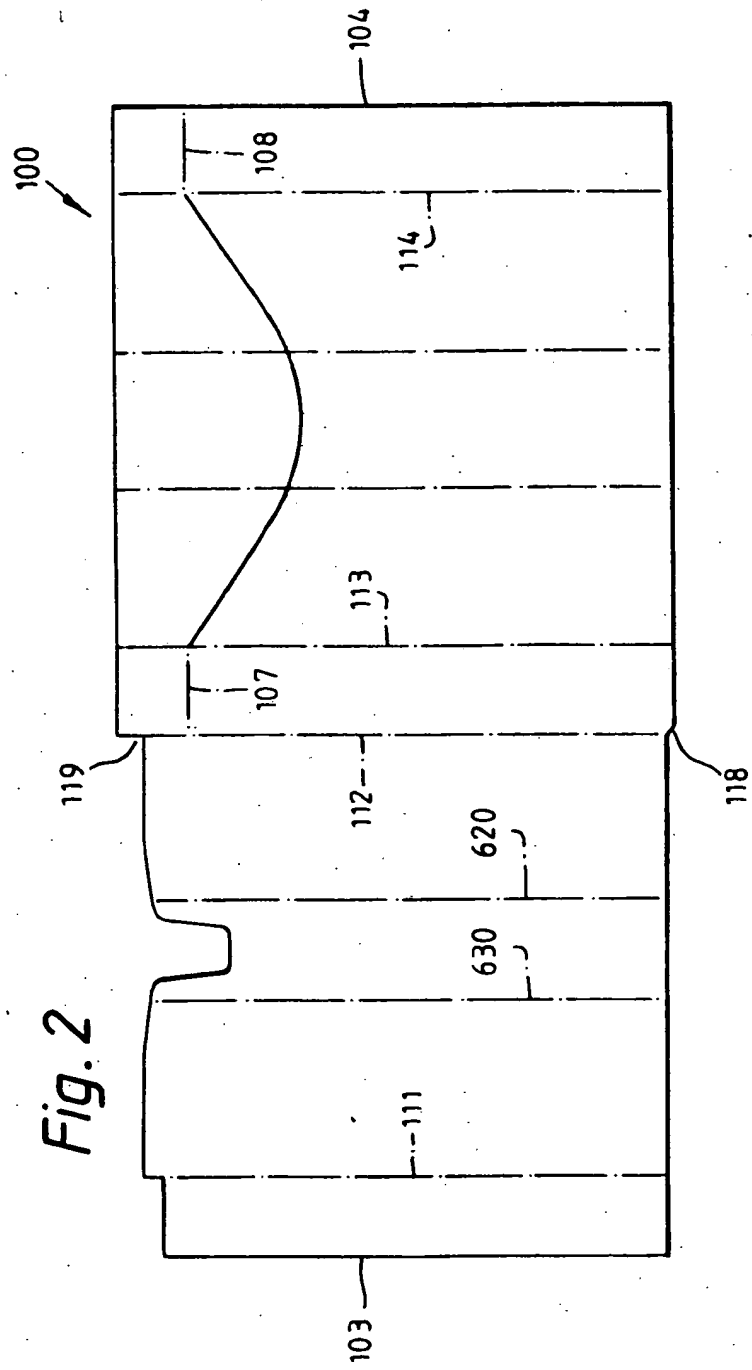
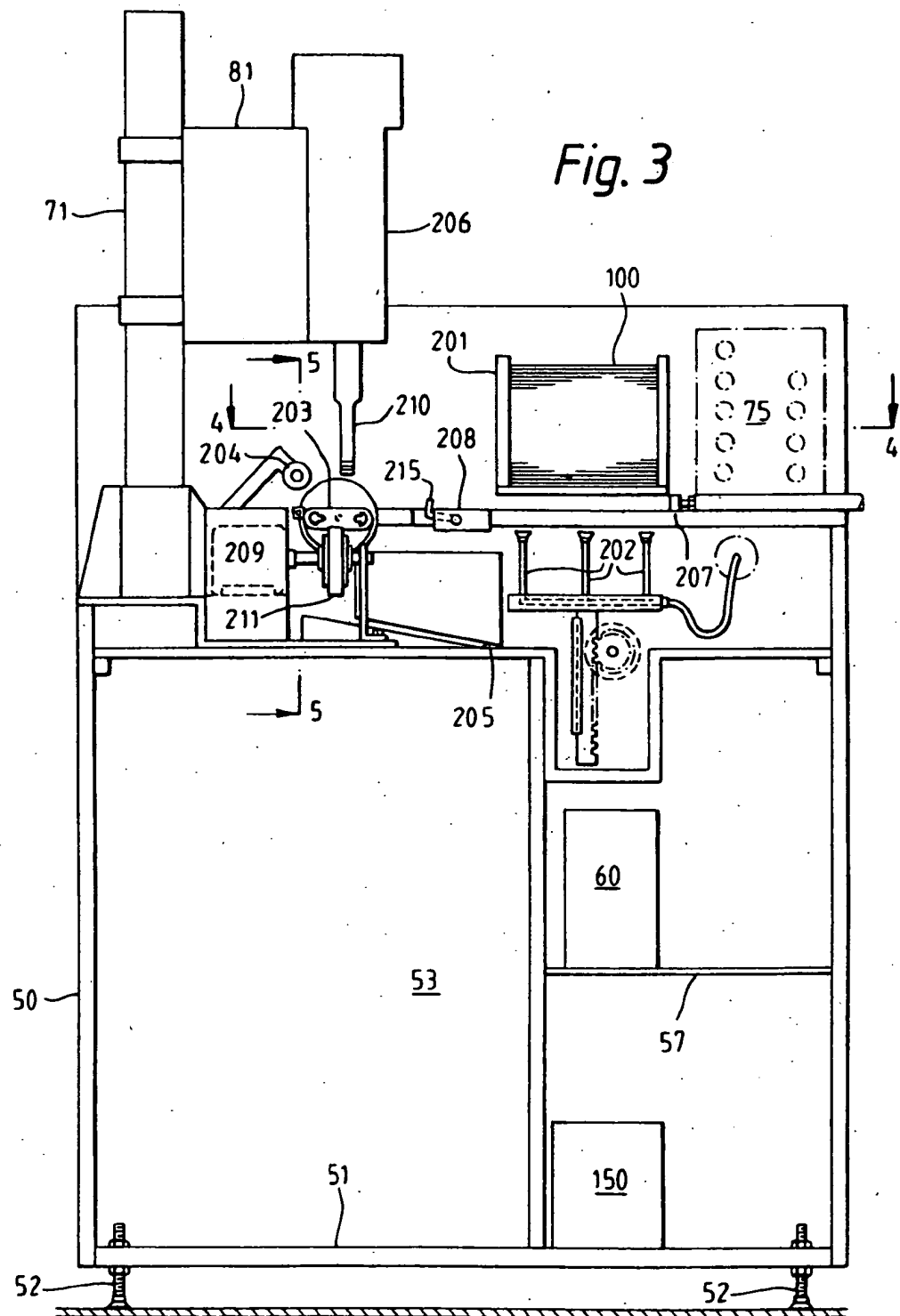
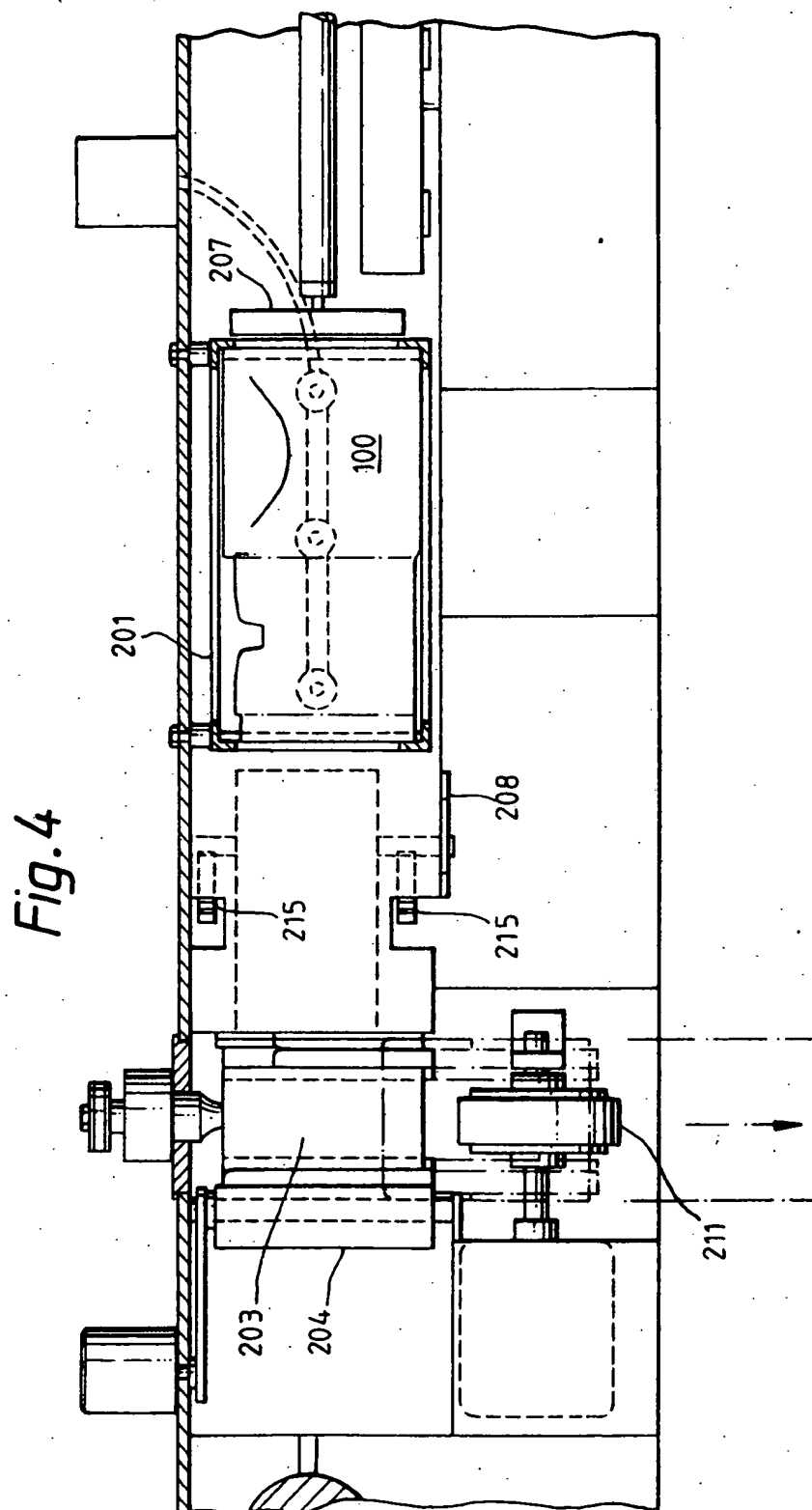


Fig. 2







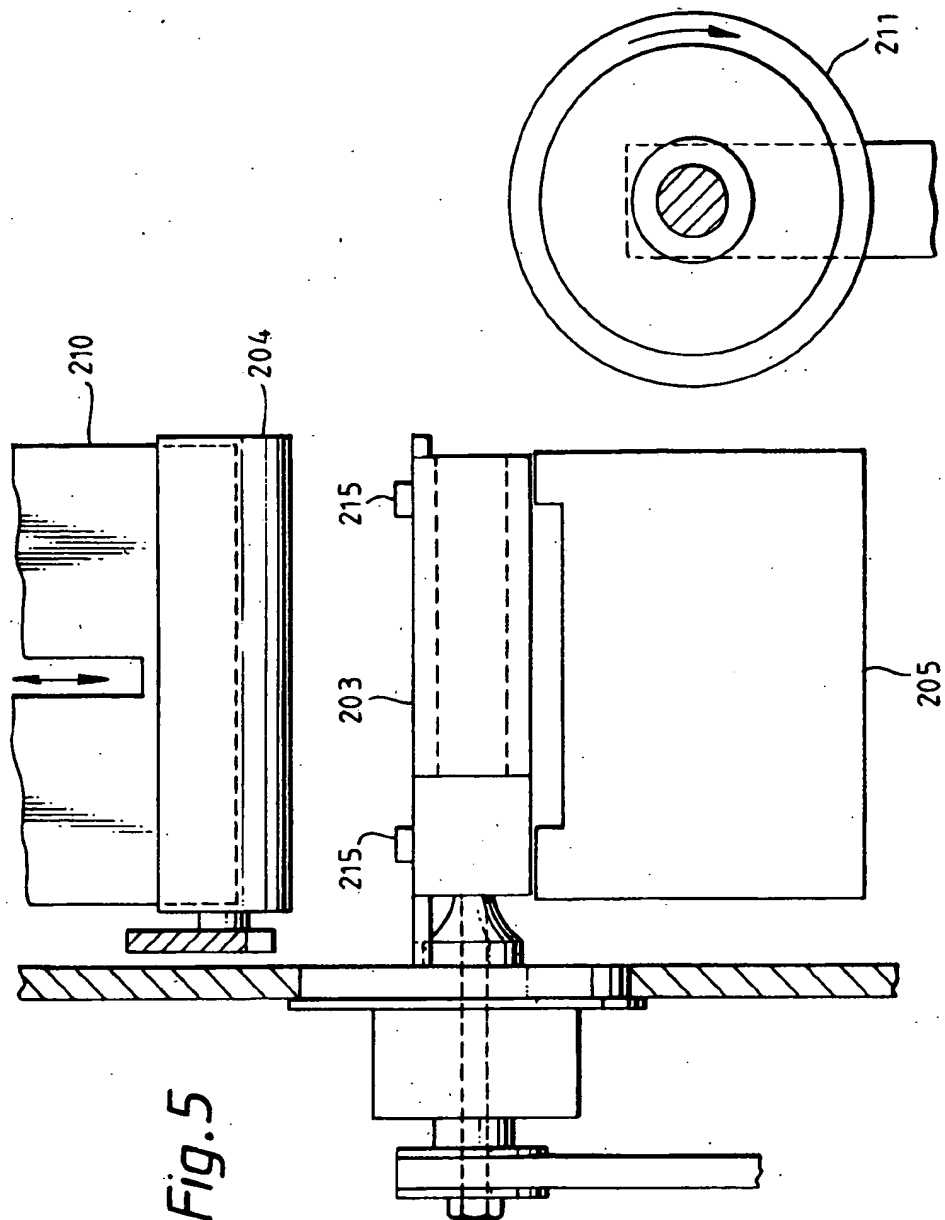


Fig. 5

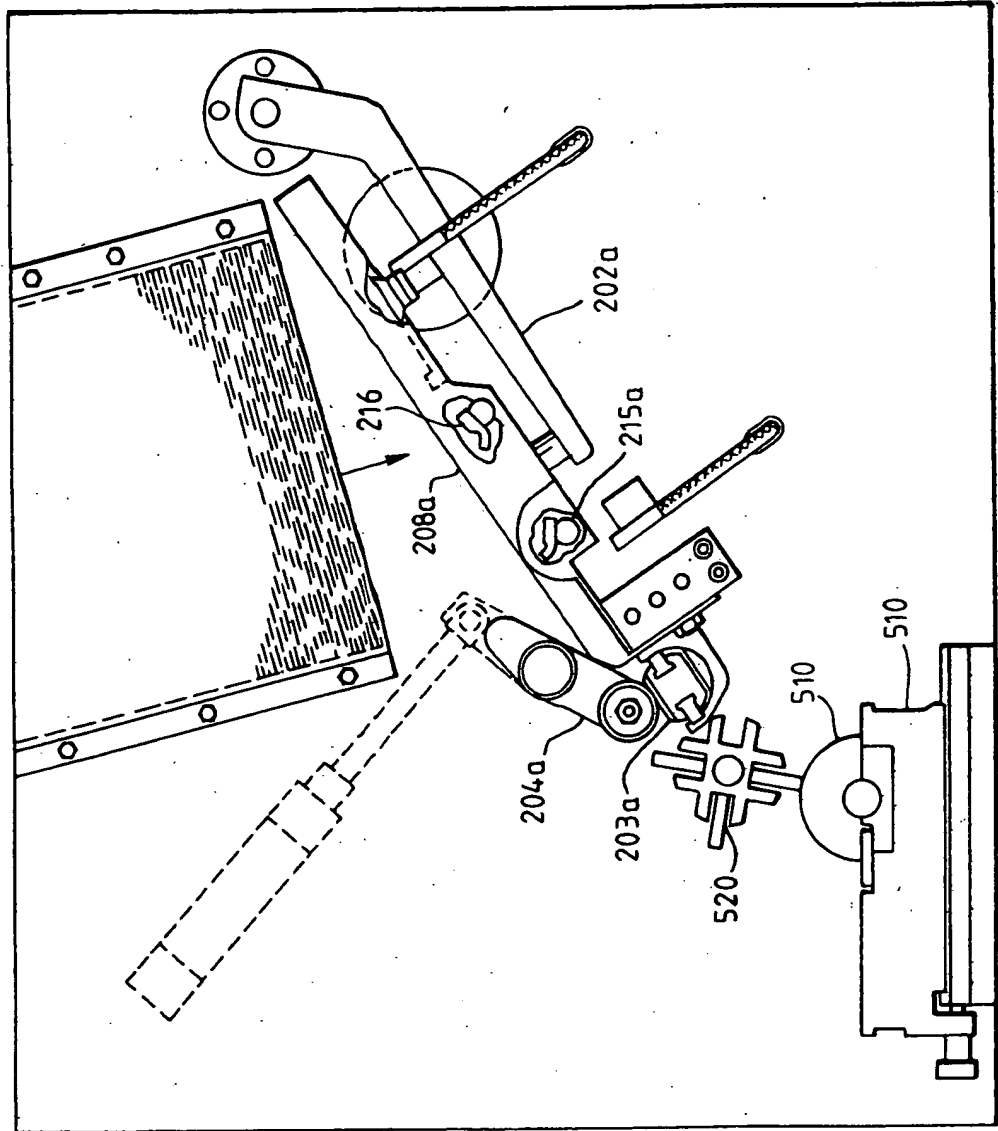


Fig. 7



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 30 7384

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claims	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	DE-A-2 032 184 (HAUNI-WERKE, KÖRBER & CO KG) * the whole document *	1,8	B65B19/22
A	FR-A-2 165 370 (MASCHINENFABRIK FR. NIEPMANN & CO) * the whole document *	1,8	
A,D	US-A-4 923 059 (EVERS, D.H. & PHAM, X.M.) * the whole document *	1,8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			865B
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		28 NOVEMBER 1991	NGO SI XUYEN G.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons Δ : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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